

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR. 22 March 1954

SUBJECT

KVP Signal Regiment in Niederlehme

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The signal regiment located at the former IG-Farben plant in Niederries near Koenigsbrunnhausen was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Reimann, who was also chief of the signal communications staff at the East German Ministry of the Interior. The unit was also referred to as D 1-Kommando. During the reported period, the unit was in progress of reorganization, which was scheduled to be completed by 31 March 1954. About four recruits daily arrived at the unit. In late-November, the unit had the following strength:

Officers NCOs EM

Headquarters	43	28	44
Headquarters platoon	2	7	84
NGO cadre personnel for infantry training		8	
School	3	2	104
1st Bn	28	36	172
2d Bn	28	36	172
3d Bn	28	48	172

Each of the battalions consisted of four companies; the first battalion specialized in the laying of underground telephone cables, the second battalion in the construction of overhead telephone lines, while the 9th and 10th Cos of the 3d Bn were radio companies, the 11th and 12th Cos operated decimeter-wave lines. The individual companies of the battalions had the same composition, with the exception of the 11th and 12th Cos which had two additional NCOs per squad. In mid-November 1953, these NCOs arrived from a course for the handling of decimeter-wave sets, which had been held at the Sachsenwerk at Radeberg near Dresden.

27 The 3d Bn of the signal regiment was organized as follows:

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School commandant

Lieutenant West

Major Presch

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Captain Heinze

5. Each soldier of the unit was equipped with a model M 1928 light machine gun. Weapons stored in a former air raid shelter on the autobahn near Keenigewusterhausen included 500 model M 1928 carbines, 100 model M 1941 submachine guns, 6 model M 1928 light machine guns, 200 model M 1928 pistols. In the installation, there were 12 ammunition stores, each stocked with 12,000 rounds of carbine ammunition to 7 of submachine gun ammunition.
6. Motor vehicles available to the regiment included:
 - 28 model H 3 A trucks including VP 00-
 - 24 model ZIS 151 radio trucks mounting short-wave stations, including three so-called generator trucks;
 - 25 model Molotov radio trucks mounting type d short-wave stations;
 - 8 model Molotov radio trucks mounting type f of an undetermined type;
 - 12 model Molotov trucks used as supply vehicles;
 - 6 EMW sedans;
 - 3 model EMW P 1 command cars;
 - 1 model ZIS ambulance;
 - 6 model Molotov repair shop trucks;
 - 1 model ZIS 5 caterpillar tractor;
 - 20 x 3-ton trailers;
 - 2 fire trucks;
 - 6 field kitchens.

The radio trucks, which formed the equipment of the 1st regiment, were stored at the Keenigewusterhausen freight station in late September. The shipment was escorted by Soviet soldiers and KVP personnel. Some of the trucks involved had taken about 20 hours for its journey.

7. About 40 percent of the personnel belonged to the 1934 class, and 10 percent each to the 1936, 33 percent belonged to older classes. About 89 percent of the personnel had served up to three years, 10 percent from three to five years, and the remainder had served longer than five years. Five percent of the personnel had come from Saxony.

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[REDACTED]

Anhalt, 70 percent from Saxony, 5 percent from Thuringia, 2 percent from Mecklenburg, 10 percent from Brandenburg and 8 percent from Berlin. About 10 percent of the personnel supported the SED regime, 10 percent were indifferent, while 80 percent were hostile to the regime. The morale of the soldiers was rather poor.

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8. In April 1954, after completion of the training year, a radio exercise is scheduled to be held in the vicinity of the installation. [REDACTED]

9. Other units stationed at the installation in Niederlehme included a courier section of 1 officer and 12 NCOs, a dog-handler party of 2 officers and 25 men, and a central signal depot to which 6 officers and 36 NCOs were assigned. These units were directly assigned to the Ministry of the Interior; however, regarding administrative matters, they depended on the D 1 commando.¹

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. The report indicates that in late November 1953 the signal regiment in Niederlehme numbered about 1,000 men, while the table of organization reportedly envisages a strength of about 2,200 men. The organization and equipment of the unit indicate that its main mission is the construction of long-distance telephone lines and of radio lines for high-echelon command headquarters. Information on the equipment with decimeter-wave sets was transmitted previously. [REDACTED] The number of these sets has in the meantime been considerably increased.

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2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED] Comment. The existence of these minor units was known previously.

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[REDACTED]